

Aloha from Senator Clayton Hee's office!

With less than 30 days left in the 2005 Legislative Session and my staff and I are working diligently to complete as much as we can by May 5<sup>th</sup>. My first session back has been productive, exciting and inspiring as hundreds dressed in green Waiahole Waikane shirts poured into a hearing room on April 4<sup>th</sup> to oppose the land transfer.

This newsletter updates you on some of the bills and resolutions I introduced this session as well as other legislation affecting our community. I've also recognized a few individuals who've made a difference in our community and culture.

To view the status and/or text of bills and resolutions, go to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>, click on Bill Status & Documents and enter the bill number in.



## Kahuku Ag Theft Bill Moves Forward

The legislature agreed to use HB1201 as the final bill for this issue. HB1201 passed the last committee on April first and awaits final vote on the floor of the legislature. HB1201 establishes that possession by any person of agricultural commodities, products and livestock without the proper certificates is sufficient evidence that these items were stolen. The minimum fine is \$1,000. HB1202 makes it illegal to trespass on agricultural lands.

Several bills were introduced this year to support farmers that were chronic victims of agricultural theft. HB1201 HS2 SD2 and HB1202 HD2 SD2 (continued in next column)

(Ag Theft article continued)

was approved by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be voted on by the full Senate on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The latest version of HB1201 and HB1202 still needs approval by the State House before it can be fully adopted by the Legislature.

## Hee Opposes Waiahole Land Transfer

This session Senator Hee introduced SCR178 Opposing the Proposed Transfer of the Waiahole Valley Agricultural Park and Residential Lots Subdivision from the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The Resolution was heard on April 4th by the Committees on Water, Land & Agriculture and Commerce in front of an impressive amount of Waiahole supporters. The outpouring of support for the resolution inspired the members of the Committees to commend the Waiahole Waikane community for its strong participation in the democratic process.

Hee offered an amendment to further clarify the purpose of the resolution which received preliminary approval by the Committees. The amendment is an explicit call from the Legislature for HCDCH to cancel its land transfer agreement.



Senator Hee was invited to represent the Hawai'i State Senate in an all Hawaiian speaking pa'u unit in the 2005 Merrie Monarch Parade. Pictured from left to right: 'Alohi Gronquist (Gr. 11, former student at Nāwahī); Niniau Kawaihae (Gr.11 Nāwahī); Niniau Simmons (UHH); Sen. Clayton Hee; Asst. Professor Lamona Shintani (Nāwahī); Larry Kimura (UHH); Kanoe Kanaka'ole ('Aha Pūnana Leo).



# Congratulations & Mahalo!

This month Senator Hee had the privilege of honoring and meeting individuals who have made a significant impact to our community and culture (From top to bottom):

- **Mr. Robert Watada** and his wife Rosa were honored on the Senate Floor for his exemplary years of service as the Executive Director of the Campaign Spending Commission. Bob will retire in September 2005.
- **Punana Leo o Kawaiaha'o** (pictures 2 and 3) – Hee invited Kumu Lolena, Director Manu Williams along with 22 students from the school to offer a *pule* (invocation) and song prior to session on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Senator Hee and Senator J. Kalani English presented the school with a Senate Certificate acknowledging the school's role in revitalizing the Hawaiian Language.
- **Mellorrie Gander** of Kāne'ohe and her parents, Rudy and May Gander joined us on the Senate Floor as we honored Mellorrie for her tenacity, courage and perseverance. Mellorrie has undergone 4 surgeries to her heart and lungs since 2 months of age and recently returned from the East Coast where she served as Hawai'i's Children's Miracle Network Ambassador.
- **Charles Michael Brotman**, producer of *Slack Key Guitar, Vol. 2* won the first Grammy in the long awaited category "Best Hawaiian Album". Joining Charles in our office were Sonny Lim and Jeff Peterson. All three gentlemen appeared on the Grammy winning CD.

## Capital Improvements

I have recommended funds for the following projects:

Ka'a'awa Elementary School – New Cafeteria and Administration Building (\$9.5 million)

Kahalu'u Elementary School – Electrical and Telecommunications Upgrade (\$800,000)

Hau'ula Elementary School - Electrical and Telecommunications Upgrade (\$800,000)

Waiahole Elementary School - Electrical and Telecommunications Upgrade (\$800,000)

Kahuku High/Intermediate School - Demolish Portable Sprung Structure and construct a New Portable Classroom (\$250,000)

Kahekili Highway – Environmental Impact Study to improve traffic congestion (\$300,000)

KEY Project Grant In Aid – Renovation of kitchen and establish a computer learning center (\$135,000).

## Law Enforcement and Emergency Workers

The Senate Committee on Higher Education passed out SB1648 to provide tuition support to members of the national guard and to children of military, law enforcement and emergency personnel killed in the line of duty. The bill also provides for tuition refunds for members of the national guard who must leave classes because of military duties. Earlier this session the bill passed all Senate committees and awaits hearing in the House Committee on Finance.

